

Offshore Oil and Gas Facts

Minerals Management Service — Offshore Minerals Management Program

- The federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) generally extends from 3 miles to 200 miles offshore and covers an area of about 1.76 billion acres. Of this total area, some 40 million acres are currently leased.
- The Federal OCS contains about 4,000 production facilities and over 33,000 miles of pipeline operated by over 45,000 industry personnel.
- The OCS currently contributes about 30 percent of U.S. domestic oil and 25 percent of U.S. domestic natural gas production, and contains over 60 percent of the U.S.' remaining oil and natural gas resources.
- The OCS contributes more energy (oil and natural gas) for U.S. consumption than any single U.S. State or country in the world .
- OCS oil production is on the rise — it has increased about 79 percent since 1995.
- At the end of 2002, OCS oil production was about 1.7 million barrels of oil per day primarily from the Gulf of Mexico (California OCS = 98,000 bbl per day; Alaska OCS = 16,000 bbl per day).
- The U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is depending on OCS oil production to fill it to capacity . The SPR receives 100,000 bbl of OCS oil each day in lieu of production royalties owed to the Federal government by oil companies.
- By 2005, MMS estimates that OCS oil and natural gas will account for about 35 percent and 25 percent respectively, of our Nation's domestic production.
- In the Gulf of Mexico, 50 percent of the leased acreage is located in "deep water" (water depth greater than 1,000 feet).
- The deep water OCS accounts for over 60 percent of total Gulf OCS oil production and about 24 percent of total Gulf OCS natural gas production.



Ram-Powell: A floating production platform in the Gulf of Mexico tethered to the ocean floor by steel cables in 3,214 ft of water — a depth of about 6 tenths of a mile

Committed to safe operations and protection of the environment